

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 88

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: Thomas Edward Oakley PRESENT POSITION Chief Photographer,
Cuyahoga County Engineer's Office
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: October 12, 1942
Cleveland, Ohio
CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Photography: Silver Print, Hand Colored

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.): Photographic Technical Training, U.S. Army
Signal School. Primarily self-taught.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year): 1./ Cleveland
Restoration Festival, Open Photo Competition: Cleveland Flats - 1976.
2./ Jewish Community Center Annual Photography Show - 1977, 1982, 1983.
3./ The Willoughby School of Fine Arts Juried Exhibition - 1977, 1979,
1983. 4./ The Kenneth C. Beck Center for the Cultural Arts Juried
Exhibition - 1978.

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

AWARDS: 1./ First Prize, Black and White Category, in the Cleveland Area
Arts Council/Cleveland Restoration Festival Photography competition on
the subject of Cleveland's Industrial Flats. August, 1976. 2./ Merit
Award, Creative Category, Color; Jewish Community Center 12th Annual
Photography Show. March, 1977. 3./ Honorable Mention in the 6th Annual
Community Artists' Exhibition of the Willoughby School of Fine Arts.
November, 1977. 4./ Third Place in Show (All Media) for color photograph
in the 8th Annual Juried Exhibition, Willoughby School. December, 1979.
We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or
something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of
gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

My general approach to photography has evolved toward a very experimental,
flexible use of multi-negative printing and hand coloring which allows the
freedom of construction and control of color I think necessary to achieve
visually interesting statements.

The piece chosen for the 1988 May Show, Chagrin River Valley: Landscape
Assembly with Marsh, was created from three separate negatives: marsh,
cloud, and moon. The print was overdeveloped, rendering the impression of
evening. It was hand colored by my wife, Pam, whose skill at this far
exceeds mine. Thus, the landscape is a creative fantasy, not a
scientifically accurate document of the external world.